

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /030 W

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R 121540Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9101

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5348

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 77 WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIZED TRADE
MISSION

REF: BAGHDAD 1080

1. REFTEL IS FIRST THIS EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF SUBJECT
MISSION. WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE
SYRIAN INCLUSION ON MISSION ITINERARY WHEN USDOC SENDS
US SOME BACKGROUND ON MISSION OBJECTIVES AND COMPOSITION.

2. AS REFTEL NOTED, SYRIA IS RELATIVELY BLESSED WITH
WATER RESOURCES AS COMPARED TO OTHER NORTH AFRICAN AND
MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF ELECTRIC POWER
IS LARGE SOVIET-EQUIPMENT TABQA DAM ON EUPHRATES. IRRIGATION
WORKS HAVE HIGH PRIORITY AS SYRIA SEEKS TO DOUBLE
EXISTING 600,000 HA. OF IRRIGATED LAND. USAID HAS
COMMITTED SOME 62 MISSION DOLLARS IN FY 75
AND 76 TOWARD EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE DAMASCUS
WATER SYSTEM (TOTAL PROJECT WORTH ABOUT 280 MILLION DOL-
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LARS, WITH ADDITIONAL FINANCING FROM IBRD AND ARAB FUND).

SEWAGE SYSTEMS (VERY INADEQUATE HERE, ESPECIALLY IN COASTAL AREAS) ARE RECEIVING INCREASING ATTENTION; THE SARG RECENTLY TENDERED (DAMASCUS 4838, T-4 OF 7/22/76) A CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS IN LATTAKIA AND ALEPPO.

3. IN SHORT, SYRIA MAY OFFER REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBJECT MISSION, IF USDOC SEEKS SUBSTITUTE COUNTRIES, DEPENDING UPON MISSION OBJECTIVES AND COMPOSITION. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
MURPHY

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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